(a) whether the British Labour Party leader had discussions with various personalities of Jammu and Kashmir during his recent visit to that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he made any statement on Jammu and Kashmir after visiting that State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Mr. Gerald Kaufman, Shadow Foreign Secretary of the UK had discussion with the Governor and other senior officials and met a large cross-section of political leaders, jurists, representatives of the press and other personalities in Jammu and Kashmir during his recent visit to the State.

(c) and (d). The Government have seen various press reports about remarks made by Mr. Kaufman after visiting that state, calling for a solution to Kashmir problem taking into account the view of the Kashmiris and suggesting a role for the Commonwealth in this regard. The Government hopes to resolve this matter with Pakistan bilaterally under the Simla Agreement. There is no question, of any mediation, good offices or intervention by any third party, including the Commonwealth.

Satiguda Irrigation Project

5885. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Satiguda Irrigation Project in Orissa is at a stand-still position;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the union Government for the project and the amount released so far; and

(d) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Satiguda Irrigation Project is being executed by the Government of Orissa with funds provided by the Government of India. The State Government has never reported that the Irrigation Project has, at any time, been in a stand-still prosition.

(c) The amount sanctioned by the Government of India for the Project is Rs. 318.20 lakhs. The amount so far released to the Government of Orissa is Rs. 37.45 lakhs.

(d) As per the Terms & Conditions laid down for the release of funds by the Government of India, the entire expenditure is to be incurred by the Government of Orissa by August, 1992. The remaining amount would be released to the State Government against actual expenditure incurred, as and when reimburssment claims are submitted by the State Government along with required documents.

Amendment to Official Secrets Act

5886. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Official Secrets Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the changes likely to be effected in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). There has been a proposal to carry out certain amendments to the Official Secrets Act, 1923 which are generally aimed at making the relevant provisions more liberal to provide greater access to official information. The Government has, however, not yet taken a final view in the matter.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges in U.P.

5887. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges proposed to be opened during 1991-92 in Uttar Pradesh district-wise;

(b) the amount allocated therefor; and

(c) the number of S.T.D. and I.S.D. connections given in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh during last year alongwith their details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The information with regard to proposal for opening of P.Os and T.O's is given in the the attached Statements I & II, respectively.

As regards Telephone Exchanges, 40 Exchanges are proposed to be opened in U.P. during the year 1991-92. The District wise details are being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

(b) Information shall be laid on the Table of the House after finalisation of the allocations.

(c) One S.T.D. and I.S.D. connection has been given at Hathras in Aligarh District during last year.

STATEMENT - I

District-wise targets for opening of post office in U.P. Circle in 1991-92 subject to justification.

Sl. No.	*Name of District be opened.*	*No. of Post Office Proposed to*
1.	Barabanki	12
2.	Faizabad	15
3.	Rai Bareilly	15
4.	Sitapur	15
5.	Sultanpur	18
6.	Lucknow	25